- the broadcasting of digital television signals;

- the broadcasting of audio-digital signals;

- radio telephony;

- the transmission of data signals.

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein · be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.
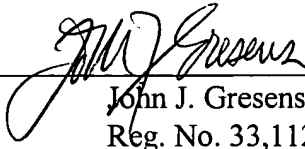
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: <u>April 24, 2001</u>   By_____

John J. Gresens
Reg. No. 33,112

JJG/tvm

3. (Amended) Reception device according to [any of the claims 1 and 2] <u>claim 1</u>, characterized in that said adapted estimated value is computed as follows:

$$\hat{x}_{Adap,n} = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N} cnfd_{i,n} \times \hat{x}_{i,n} \right) / \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N} cnfd_{i,n} \right)$$

where:

$\hat{x}_n$ is the estimated value of the symbol received on the path i;

$cnfd_{i,n}$ is the corresponding path confidence information element; and

N is the number of paths.

4. (Amended) Reception device according to [any of the claims 1 to 3] <u>claim 1</u>, characterized in that, said adaptive confidence information element is computed as follows:

$$cnfd_{Adap,n} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} cnfd_{i,n}$$

where:

$cnfd_{i,n}$ is the confidence information element associated with the path i; and

N is the number of paths.

5. (Amended) Reception device according to [any of the claims 1 to 4] <u>claim 1</u>, characterized in that it implements at least two antennas (101_1, 101_2), supplying distinct reception paths.

6. (Amended) Reception device according to [any of the claims 1 to 5] claim 1, characterized in that each of said reception paths comprises a first module shaping and demodulating the received signal and a second module determining said estimated path values and said corresponding confidence information elements,

said device furthermore comprising a single module supplied by said second modules, and providing especially for the combination (11) delivering said adapted estimated values and a weighted-input decoding (12) supplied by said adapted estimated values.

8. (Amended) Use of a device and/or of the method according to [any of the claims 1 to 6] claim 1 and/or of the method [according to claim 7] for the reception of a multicarrier signal, formed by a set of carrier frequencies transmitted simultaneously, implementing at least two reception paths supplied with data flows, each conveying the same source symbols, each of said paths implementing a step of estimation of the transmission channel associating, with each source symbol received, an estimated path value and a corresponding path confidence information element,

a source symbol being conveyed by a subset of said set of carrier frequencies, characterized in that it comprises:

- a combination step delivering:

- an adapted estimated value, obtained from said estimated path values in taking account of said path confidence information to weight said estimated path values ; and

- an adapted confidence information element with each of said adapted estimated values, as a function of said path confidence information elements,

- a step of weighted-input decoding, supplied by said adapted estimated values, for the reception of data belonging to at least one of the following applications:

- the broadcasting of digital television signals;

- the broadcasting of audio-digital signals;

- radio telephony;

- the transmission of data signals.